



Knowledge is power for CQ landholders

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The power of knowledge when negotiating with coal seam gas (CSG) companies was made clear to Central Queensland landholders last week at a series of AgForce Projects CSG information sessions held across the region.

Held in Longreach, Barcaldine, Clermont and Middlemount, the sessions provided the opportunity for landholders to hear from others who had been through the process of CSG negotiations in addition to technical information from AgForce Projects.

Rosemary Champion, Longway, Longreach said the community was concerned about the CSG industry, but the information session helped prepare landholders for what to expect.

“The information provided by AgForce Projects clears up a lot of the misinformation and gives good, practical tips about what to expect and how best to prepare,” Mrs Champion said.

“The session gave us the opportunity to talk to locals who have been through the negotiation process, to get an idea about what to expect and highlighted the importance of being prepared.”

“As they say, knowledge is power, so this firsthand experience is invaluable.”

Mrs Champion said once landholders realise the CSG industry was here to stay they needed to seek out as much information as possible and capitalise on the resources available to help them through the process.

“We have been to two CSG sessions and it makes you realise how much you still don’t know, and how much is changing,” Mrs Champion said.

“Landholders are very time-poor, we don’t have time to read the legislation and get our minds around all of this, but AgForce’s CSG team have done the ground work and interpreted the legislation to make it easier for landholders when we do need to deal with a CSG company.”

“The contacts AgForce gave us were also very helpful and the different conduct provisions and what to consider before going into a negotiation is great and gives people the knowledge and confidence to say, yes I have the right to choose to get a good agreement.”

AgForce CSG project officer Natalie Pears agreed one of the best resources is the landholder who has already been through the process.

“Learn from their experience so that you have an idea about what to expect and how best to prepare,” Ms Pears said.

“When a CSG company approaches you, we want you to be in an informed position so that you know what they are talking about; you understand the impacts of their activities and can prepare a really solid CCA.

“You need to prepare for these negotiations like you would any other business negotiation. Under legislation, CSG companies must consult with you about how they undertake their authorised activities. So make sure you have a solid understanding of what they plan to do and evaluate the impact on your property.”

Ms Pears said another important step in the negotiation preparation process was to have a comprehensive map and plan of your property.

“A map of your property which identifies your farm infrastructure, productive areas or even future developments will assist you in assessing the potential impacts from CSG activities, determine and set conduct provisions and compensation during your negotiations.”

Natalie emphasised the importance of seeking legal advice before entering negotiations and utilising the free services available such as AgForce Projects CSG team for any CSG queries. For more information or to subscribe to the CSG newsletter email csg@agforceprojects.org.au, visit www.agforceprojects.org.au or call 3238 6048.

These sessions are delivered free to all producers through funding from the Queensland Government.

Photo caption: IMG_7138 – Peter Chay, Rosemary Champion and Paul Gielis at a CSG negotiation preparation session in Longreach.

IMG_7158 – AgForce Projects CSG officer Natalie Pears explains the process of negotiating a Conduct and Compensation Agreement.

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